

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W

-----086128 021305Z /45

R 020645Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 874

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, SOPN, PINR, TU

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF TURKEY

REF: STATE 049475

1. WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH FBIS' WILLINGNESS TO TRY TO HELP REDUCE OUR BURDEN OF PRESS REPORTING. IN THE PAST, FBIS REPORTING OF HOT NEWS OF EVENTS, AS WELL AS ITS SPEEDY TRANSLATIONS OF LENGTHY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND WE HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON THIS RESOURCE.

2. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FBIS COULD RELIEVE US OF REPORTING HOW THE TURKISH PRESS PRESENTS AND COMMENTS UPON DEVELOPMENTS OF STRONG CURRENT INTEREST TO THE USG, OR REPORTING ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS MATTERS REQUIRING USG OFFICIAL COMMENT OR OTHER ACTION. ALSO, SINCE WE ARE CLOSER TO DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS, IT FALLS TO US TO PICK UP AND EVALUATE PRESS LEAKS OR INSTANCES OF MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION.

3. INCREASING THE FLOW OF FBIS MATERIAL TO THE EMBASSY WOULD NOT BY ITSELF ALLOW US TO STOP READING NEWSPAPERS OR MONITORING RADIO BROADCASTS, BUT RATHER WOULD ENTAIL  
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SPENDING MORE TIME READING THE FBIS PRODUCT. THE REASON WE HAVE LIMITED OUR REQUEST FOR FBIS SERVICE (PARA 3 REFTEL) IS NOT THE LIMITATION ON OUR COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY BUT THE LIMITATION ON OUR TIME FOR READING. WE ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN GETTING FBIS REPORTING TO BE ABLE TO KNOW WHAT SUBJECTS FBIS HAS COVERED IN ITS REPORTING TO WASHINGTON.

4. ONE BASIC PROBLEM AFFLICTING OUR POTENTIAL COLLABORATION WITH FBIS IS THAT WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT FBIS REPORTS ARE ALWAYS SEEN QUICKLY BY ACTION OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OR THAT THEY ARE AVAILABLE TO OTHER DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY ADDRESSEES TO WHOM WE SEND OUR REPORTS. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT, BECAUSE OF THE TIME LAG AND GEOGRAPHIC SEPARATION, WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT A GIVEN DEVELOPMENT ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE LEARNED IS OR IS NOT BEING COVERED BY FBIS. FINALLY, IN MOST CASES WHEN IMMEDIATE ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS ARE REQUIRED, WE FIND IT IMPRACTICABLE TO SEPARATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INFORMATION REPORTING AND ANALYSIS.

5. DESPITE THESE INHERENT LIMITATIONS, WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO MAKE MORE USE OF FBIS' CAPABILITY AND TO REDUCE DUPLICATION. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN WE KNOW THAT A MAJOR SPEECH OR POLICY STATEMENT IS TO BE BROADCAST, WE WILL ASK FBIS TO TAKE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING IT. WE WILL LOOK FOR OTHER SITUATIONS IN WHICH WE CAN MAKE ADVANCE REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT. WE REITERATE THAT WE APPRECIATE FBIS' WILLINGNESS TO HELP AND WE WANT TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE. SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014